

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 13492

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJ: GENERAL SAN FORCES TRANSFERS IN MUSLIM PROVINCES

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION BANGKOK AUG 20 FM SONGKHLA RPTD
FOR YOUR INFO:

SONGKHLA 011

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJ: GENERAL SAN FORCES TRANSFERS IN MUSLIM PROVINCES

1. BANGKOK POST STORY OF AUGUST 19 REGARDING TRANSFER
OF YALA DEPUTY GOVERNOR CHUWIT WAITHANOMSAT AND HIS BROTHER
COL. THANOM, CHIEF OF YALA SECURITY, APPEARS TO BE RELATIVELY
TRUE. HOWEVER, SOURCES HERE STATE REASON IS NOT ONE GIVEN BY
PRESS ARTICLE THAT THE BROTHERS "OPPOSED USE OF FORCE" IN
AREA. RATHER, WE LEARNED THAT MAJ. GEN. SAN CHITPATIMA HAS
THREATENED TO RESIGN UNLESS THE BROTHERS ARE TRANSFERRED. AS
CHIEF OF THE SPECIAL SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE FOR THE
SOUTHERN MUSLIM PROVINCES, SAN WAS ALSO PROMISED POWER TO
TRANSFER CIVILIAN OFFICIALS. IF HE WINS THIS CONFRONTATION,
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CHANCES ARE THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO IMPROVE CIVILIAN AS WELL

AS MILITARY SITUATION IN AREA.

2. BACKGROUND: DEPUTY GOVERNOR CHUWIT LONG KNOWN AS PROTEGE OF PRAPHAT DURING PREVIOUS REGIME AS WELL AS CORRUPT PRACTICES. CHUWIT HAS LEAPT OVER MORE SENIOR OFFICIALS IN BUREAUCRACY AND HAS HAD AN EYE ON GOVERNORSHIP FOR SOME TIME. HE MADE PROBLEMS FOR FORMER YALA GOVERNOR AND HAS HINDERED NEW ONE BY ENCOURAGING DISSENSION AND PERHAPS EVEN TRAFFICKING WITH SOME SEPARATISTS. HIS BROTHER, COL. THANOM, HAS HAD LONG DEALINGS WITH PAW SU AND WAS IN FACT CONTACT MAN FOR ABORTED MEETING BETWEEN PAW SU AND NARONG KITTIKACHORN HERE LAST YEAR. STORY IS THAT NARONG HAD IN MIND BUSINESS/POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP AND INTENDED COL. THANOM TO BE MIDDLEMAN.

3. COMMENT: COL. THANOM IS ALSO SOURCE FOR MOST OF FAVORABLE ARTICLES WRITTEN ON PAW SU AND, OR COURSE, HIMSELF IN BANGKOK PRESS. IF SAN IS TAKING ON "OLD GUARD" LIKE THIS AND WINNING CONFRONTATIONS, RTG PERFORMANCE IS SOUTH IS BOUND TO IMPROVE. PROBLEM WILL BE CABINET BACKING, HOWEVER, AND SAN CAN ONLY THREATEN TO RESIGN SO MANY TIME. CASTRODALE
KINTNER

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